

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 61 and 66.

Please amend Claim 56 as follows.

Please add new Claims 67-70.

1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented)      A flexible, composite sheet membrane comprising:

    a polymeric support, said support having a first side and a second side, wherein each of said first and second sides comprises a coating of a non-fiberized polymeric material,

    said material comprising a particulate blended with a polymer, said particulate being substantially physically immobilized by said polymer,

    each of said sides having a coating of said material substantially equal in thickness and wherein the outer surface of said membrane has a porous and selectively permeable skin, and wherein less of said particulate is disposed at said outer surface than is disposed further in the interior of said membrane.

47. (Previously Presented)      The membrane of Claim 46 wherein the majority of said particles have a diameter less than about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

48. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 46 wherein said membrane comprises a contoured sheet.

49. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 48 wherein said membrane comprises a rippled sheet.

50. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 48 wherein said membrane comprises a pleated sheet.

51. (Previously Presented) The membrane of claim 46 further comprising a coating of hydrophilizing agent.

52. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 46 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidene fluoride, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl chloride and ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.

53. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 46 comprising between about 5% and 30% of said polymeric material.

54. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 46 comprising about 70% by weight of said particulate material.

55. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 46 wherein said support comprises a polyester mesh material.

56. (Currently Amended) A flexible, composite sheet membrane comprising:

a polymeric support, said support comprising a first side and a second side,

at least one of said first or second sides comprising a first coating of a particulate blended with a polymer, said particulate being substantially physically immobilized by said polymer, wherein less of said particulate is disposed near said skin than is disposed in the interior of said membrane and

a second coating of a hydrophilizing agent.

57. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 wherein the majority of said particles have a diameter less than about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

58. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 wherein said membrane comprises a contoured sheet.

59. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 58 wherein said membrane comprises a rippled sheet.

60. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 58 wherein said membrane comprises a pleated sheet.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidene fluoride, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl chloride and ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.

63. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 comprising between about 5% and 30% of said polymeric material.

64. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 comprising about 70% by weight of said particulate material.
65. (Previously Presented) The membrane of Claim 56 wherein said support comprises a polyester mesh material.
66. (Canceled)
67. (New) A flexible, composite membrane comprising:  
a polymeric support, said support comprising a first side and a second side;  
at least one of said first or second sides comprising a first coating of a particulate blended with a polymer,  
said particulate being substantially physically immobilized by said polymer, wherein less of said particulate is disposed near said skin than is disposed in the interior of said membrane.
68. (New) The membrane of claim 67 wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyvinylidene fluoride, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl chloride and ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer.
69. (New) The membrane of Claim 67 comprising between about 5% and 30% of said polymeric material.
70. (New) The membrane of Claim 67 comprising about 70% by weight of said particulate.